

# N • P • S • P • A • C

## National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee

Region 22 Minnesota Review Committee

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MAY 2 - 2005

FCC - MAILROOM

Secretary

April 12, 2005

Federal Communications Commission

Office of the Secretary

445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW

Room TW-204 8

Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Subject: Amendment to Minnesota NPSPAC Plan for ARMER Phase 2 and 3

The Regional Review Committee is proposing an amendment to the Region 22 Minnesota NPSPAC plan, Docket 87-112. The amendment documents new and revised channel assignments necessary to accommodate Phase 2 and 3 requirements of the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) system, a statewide trunking plan described in the attachment. ARMER Phase 2 expands the Metropolitan system to include additional local government participation while Phase 3 includes assignments in the Collar area extending approximately 35 miles beyond the Metropolitan seven counties. The amendment coordinates over 200 channels for locations in an area covering 36 counties. Highlights of the plan include the following;

<u>Location</u>	<u>Additional Channel Assignments</u>
Dakota County	4
Chisago/Isanti County Integrated System	6
Scott/Carver County Integrated System	5
Burnett, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties (Wisconsin)	As needed
Eleven (11) Wisconsin Border Counties State Channels	5 each
Twenty-five (25) ARMER Phase 3 sites	6 each

At this time the only source of channels for ARMER is NPSPAC. Additional Public Safety 806/851 MHz channels may become available when re-banding (NEXTEL) is implemented in the region. The 700 MHz state channels are currently licensed but infrastructure equipment is not yet available. Most Phase 1 subscriber equipment currently in operation is not capable of 700 MHz operation.

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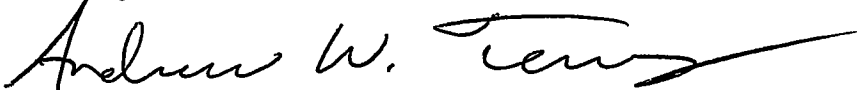
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The amendment consists of new assignments utilizing the fifty-six guard and unassigned channels of the NPSPAC plan as modified by FCC PR Docket No. 93-130. These channels are assigned to potential ARMER sites in the Collar area. Channels which are not assigned in an area by the NPSPAC plan are categorized as unused channels. The amendment also assigns these channels to potential ARMER sites in the Collar area. Some original NPSPAC assignments are modified to minimize potential interference or to allow for a more efficient use of the channels. The new assignments and modifications of the amendment are described in Tables 1 thru 6.

It also includes a suggested plan as described in Table 7 to resolve Wisconsin/Minnesota border conflicts inherent in the Regional plans. The intent is to insure that Wisconsin border counties are assigned adequate channels, commensurate with their populations, to implement practical systems. In many cases Wisconsin state channels are identified as those necessary to be used in specific counties to resolve border conflicts. Assignment of these channels is at the discretion of the Region 45 Planning Committee.

I have included letters of concurrence for the proposed amendment from the adjacent regions. Please amend the plan as proposed. If you have any questions please call me or Roger Kochevar at (651)-296-7419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Andrew W. Terry". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Andrew W. Terry  
Region 22 Chairman  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
395 John Ireland Blvd, MS 730  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155  
(651) 296-7402

**Table 1****Region 22 "Unassigned" and Guard Channel Assignments**

The following "unassigned" and guard channels have been assigned to specific ARMER sites or to counties. Sites may be general locations where ARMER is identifying land for potential towers. The use of these channels was authorized by an amendment to the Region 22 plan on October 2, 2000 (FCC PR Docket No. 93-130) The twenty-two (22) guard channels are assigned for state use in Wisconsin. There are sixty-seven (67) channels assigned for statewide use by the State of Wisconsin.

It is requested that the State use these channels in locations compatible with the ARMER locations.

<u>County</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Unassigned Channels</u>	<u>Guard Channels</u>
Benton	Gilman	661	633,669,707,743,785
Brown	New Ulm	-----	709
Dodge	Washiota	685,755	-----
Goodhue	Cannon Falls	655,759	633,711,785
Goodhue	Red Wing	695	673,745,783
Goodhue	Zumbrota	655,659,697,735,761	787
Isanti/Chisago	-----	697	-----
Kanabec	Mora	757	629,673,821
Le Sueur	Kilkenny	691,757	671,791,821
Le Sueur	Le Sueur	689, 765	705
Meeker	Litchfield	693, 699	821
Meeker	Kingston	661,689,739,757	705,709,749
McLeod	Biscay	683, 761	631, 783
Pine	Pine City	691	751
Renville	Hector	657	633,785
Rice	Lonsdale	699	629,675,743
Rice	Faribault	661,687,725	631,707,749
Scott/Carver	-----	-----	781
Sherburne	Zimmerman	657,665,735,765	635,791
Sibley	Gaylord	659,685,731	751,823
Sibley	Gibbon	-----	673
Stearns	Kimball	695	745
Stearns	Farming	685	711
Stearns	Grove	-----	629
Steele	Owatonna	-----	747
Wabasha	Bear Valley	665	-----
Wabasha	Lake City	665	-----
Wabasha	Oakwood	665	-----
Waseca	Janesville	657	-----
Washington	SN5 Replacements	703	-----
Wright	Enfield	655,701,725	637

Table 2

## Unused Channel Assignments

The following table shows Metro and Collar area channel assignments required to implement the ARMER system phases 2 and 3, including the metro and collar areas. These channels are unassigned in the area of the specified site and will allow sufficient co-channel and adjacent channel spacing to meet the technical requirements of the Region 22 plan concerning channel reuse.

<u>County</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Channel</u>
Brown	New Ulm	736
Chisago/Isanti	—	771, 813
Dakota	—	798
Dodge	Washiota	654,736
Goodhue	Cannon Falls	733, 727
Goodhue	Red Wing	647,737
Kanabec	Mora	733,776,801
Le Sueur	Kilkenny	739
Le Sueur	Le Sueur	663,741
Meeker	Litchfield	723
Meeker	Richmond	664,720
McLeod	Biscay	733
Pine	Pine City	721,773
Rice	Lonsdale	717,805
Sherburne	Zimmerman	719
Sibley	Gaylord	801
Sibley	Gibbon	647,700,721,756,796
Stearns	Belgrade	756
Stearns	Kimball	805
Steele	Owatonna	643,692,767
Washington	ARMER Sub-Network 5 (SN5) Replacements	723,741,793
Wright	Enfield	603,797

**Table 3**

**Chisago and Isanti County Integrated System  
(6 additional channel) 645,663,697,771,799,813**

The following table shows the Metro and Collar area channel reassignments necessary to obtain six additional channels which will enable Chisago and Isanti counties to implement an integrated system. The Wisconsin assignment is proposed and is contingent on adoption by the Region 45 Planning Committee.

<u>Channel</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>	<u>New Assignment</u>
645	Chisago, Meeker	Isanti, Chisago
663	Isanti	Isanti, Chisago
771	Morrison	Isanti, Chisago
759	Unassigned	Morrison
799	Chisago, Crow Wing	Isanti, Chisago
747	Guard	Crow Wing
813	Isanti	Isanti, Chisago
697	Barron, WI	Isanti, Chisago
797	Unused	Barron, WI

**Table 4****Scott and Carver County Integrated System  
(5 additional channels), 609,653,737, 769,781**

The following table shows the Metro and Collar area channel reassignments necessary to obtain five additional channels which will enable Scott and Carver Counties to implement an integrated system. The Wisconsin assignment is proposed and is contingent on adoption by the Region 45 Planning Committee.

<b><u>Channel</u></b>	<b><u>Current Assignment</u></b>	<b><u>New Assignment</u></b>
<b>609</b>	<b>Scott</b>	<b>Scott, Carver</b>
<b>653</b>	<b>Scott</b>	<b>Scott, Carver</b>
<b>737</b>	<b>Scott</b>	<b>Scott, Carver</b>
<b>781</b>	<b>Statewide WI, Pierce Co, WI</b>	<b>Scott, Carver</b>
<b>619</b>	<b>Unused</b>	<b>Pierce, WI</b>
<b>769</b>	<b>Goodhue</b>	<b>Scott, Carver</b>
<b>815</b>	<b>Winona</b>	<b>Goodhue</b>
<b>757</b>	<b>Unassigned</b>	<b>Winona</b>

**Table 5**

**Dakota County**  
**(4 additional channels) 638,752,790,798**

The following table shows the Metro and Collar area channel reassignments necessary to obtain four additional channels for Dakota County. Wisconsin assignments are proposed and are contingent on adoption by the Region 45 Planning Committee.

<u>Channel</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>	<u>New Assignment</u>
638	SN5*	Dakota
752	SN5	Dakota
790	SN5	Dakota
798	Ambiguous	Dakota
714	SN5	St. Croix, WI
703	St. Croix, WI	SN5
723	Pierce, WI	SN5
741	Unused	SN5
793	Unused	SN5
693	Pepin, WI	SN5
657	Unassigned	Pepin, WI
801	Unused	Pierce, WI

\* SN5 ARMER System Phase I - Simulcast Network 5  
(Washington Dakota County Area)

**Table 6**  
**Region 22 Channel Reassignments**

The following table shows the Metro and Collar area channel reassignments necessary to achieve more efficient channel utilization in the Metro and Collar areas. Wisconsin assignments are proposed and are contingent on adoption by the Region 45 Planning Committee.

<u>Channel</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>	<u>New Assignment *</u>
716	Scott	Hennepin
603	Benton	(Enfield)
667	Guard	Benton
797	Benton	(Enfield)
789	Guard	Benton
805	Nicollet	(Lonsdale)
709	Guard	Nicollet
801	Renville	(Gaylord)
707	Guard	Renville
665	Burnett	(Zimmerman)
675	Guard	Burnett, WI
695	Dunn, WI	(Red Wing), Kimball
757	"Unassigned"	Dunn, WI
711	Guard	Meeker

\* Parenthesis indicates a specific ARMER site

## Table 7

### Wisconsin Border Channel Conflict Resolution Plan

The Region 45 and Region 22 plans have conflicting channel assignments in the border areas near the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan area. These channels were assigned to both Minnesota and Wisconsin counties and have a separation of substantially less than 50 miles. With the expectation of a plan to eventually resolve these conflicts, Region 45 concurred with ARMER system licensing on many of these channels.

<u>Wisconsin County</u>	<u>Assignments With Border Conflicts</u>
Burnett	602,622,694
Pierce	602,606,622,642,662,730
Polk	604,618,624
St. Croix	613,640,660,608,728

The following is a plan to resolve these conflicts with replacement and additional channels which could be used within the Wisconsin border counties. These channels are coordinated with the Minnesota ARMER Channel Plan. The intent is to insure that Wisconsin border counties are assigned enough channels so that a practical trunked system can be implemented. The Region 35 Wisconsin Plan has assigned (67) channels for state use. The plan recommends that twelve (12) of these be assigned for county or state use in the five Wisconsin counties bordering the Metro area. The following three tables show the total channels assigned to the border counties under the conflict resolution plan. Three categories of channels are shown; New, Modified and Original Assignments. The adoption of the conflict resolution plan is contingent upon the Region 35 Committee.

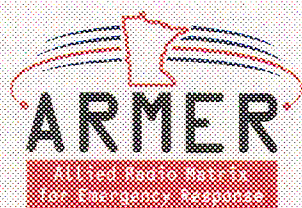
<u>County</u>	<u>New Assignments (State or County)</u>
Burnett	634,668,749,783,811
Pepin	691,719,751,765,771
Pierce	669,705,739,763,809
Polk	631,671,689,761,777
St. Croix	625,667,747,803,817

<u>County</u>	<u>Modified Assignments</u>
Burnett	675
Pepin	657
Pierce	619,801
Polk	683,805
St. Croix	714

<u>County</u>	<u>Original Assignments (still assigned)</u>
Burnett	643
Pepin	617,716
Pierce	723
Polk	649,699,717,731
St. Croix	613,701,703,725

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER)**



## Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER)

Communication is cited most often as the primary disaster response problem. Aging communication infrastructure, the lack of frequencies, interoperability across bands and interoperability across systems, add up to a critical need to improve Minnesota's public safety communication infrastructure. The events of Sept. 11, 2001 have only served to increase the importance of interoperable public safety communication as a state and national priority. The "800 MHz Executive Team Report" to the 2001 Minnesota Legislature ([www.dot.state.mn.us/oc/statewide/statewideinfo.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/oc/statewide/statewideinfo.html)) requires a coordinated response through the development of the Statewide Public Safety Radio Communication Plan.

This communication priority is also reflected in Minnesota's 2004 Homeland Security Strategy and Assessment, Goal 7:

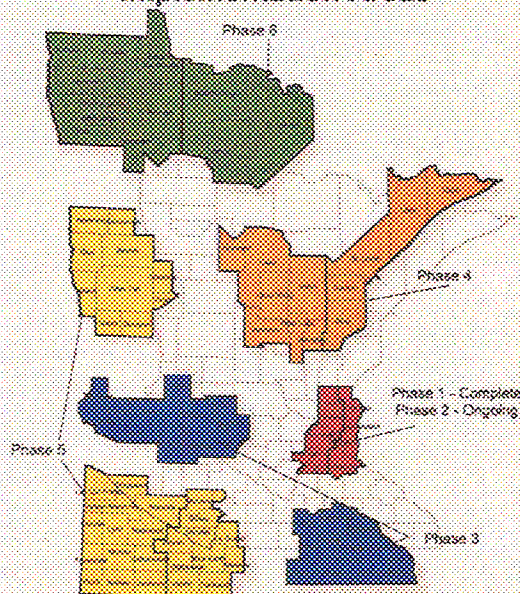
"Implement a statewide system of interoperable communication for local and state resources to be more effective and efficient in ensuring the safety of the citizens and emergency responders in Minnesota."

### Statewide Public Safety Radio Communication Plan

The objectives of this goal is to provide for the planning and development of a statewide interoperable trunked radio system to replace the existing diverse and antiquated analog communication systems.

This plan provides for a phased statewide development of the radio system infrastructure. The plan calls for six phases, with Phase 1 covering the initial backbone construction in the seven county metropolitan area plus Chisago and Isanti counties. Phase 2 included local enhancements to the initial backbone in the seven county metropolitan area.

### Statewide Plan Implementation Areas



### Phases of Development

**Phase 1** – Basic communication backbone and interoperability infrastructure completed December 2002, which included local enhancements to Carver County, Minneapolis and portions of Hennepin County.

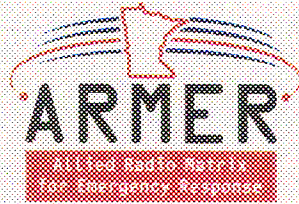
**Phase 2** – Additional local enhancements to Phase 1 backbone.

**Phase 3** – St. Cloud and Rochester State Patrol districts.

**Phase 4** – Brainerd and Duluth State Patrol districts.

**Phase 5** – Marshall, Mankato and Detroit Lakes State Patrol districts.

**Phase 6** – Thief River Falls State Patrol district.



# Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER)

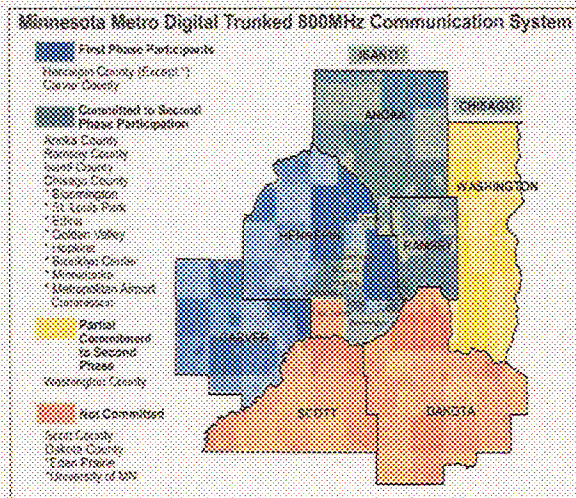
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## Phase 1

The planning and development of Phase 1 began in 1995 with the formation of the Metropolitan Radio Board (MRB). The statute creating the MRB provided that the Department of Transportation would own, operate and maintain the shared trunked radio system. The initial backbone, which included basic communication and interoperability infrastructure, cost approximately \$36 million. It was funded by the state and through revenue bonds supported by a dedicated portion of the 911 fees. Phase 1 improvements, which included coverage, capacity, mobile and portable radios, in Carver and Hennepin counties and Minneapolis cost approximately \$32 million. This was paid for by the local entities.

## Phase 2

Phase 2, which includes additional local expansion to the Phase 1 backbone, has proceeded as indicated in the following metro area map.



## For Phase 2:

- ♦ Anoka County has completed its transition to the regional shared trunked radio system.
- ♦ Hennepin County non-dependent communities (Bloomington, St. Louis Park, Edina, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Brooklyn Center, Minnetonka and the Metropolitan Airport Commission) are in the transition process.
- ♦ Ramsey County is in the final stages of preparing a request for proposals for the transition.
- ♦ Dakota County has made a commitment to transition to the regional shared trunked radio system over the next two years.

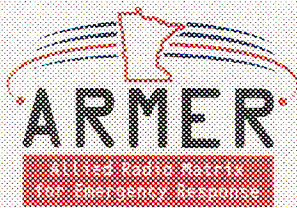
Isanti and Chisago counties were added to the metro region for local enhancements by the 2004 Legislature. These counties were part of the Phase 1 build out.

Phase 2 implementation was aided by the allocation of \$7.5 million from 2003 Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) funds, which purchased public safety portable and mobile radios for local communities. In 2004, HSEM funds were allocated to cover a portion of local costs of developing to the interoperable radio system. The funds were allocated as follows:

Anoka County	\$2.1 million
Hennepin County	\$4.46 million
Ramsey County	\$4.3 million

## Phase 3

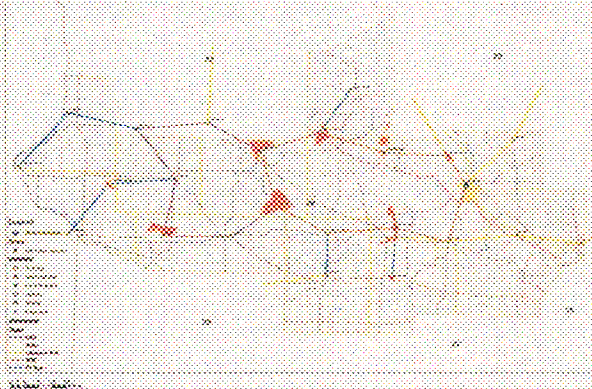
In 2003, the Minnesota Legislature provided \$27 million of the \$44 million needed to fund Phase 3 development outside the Metropolitan area. A portion of the 911 fees would finance the \$27 million in revenue bonds. Phase 3 calls for the development of the basic communication and interoperability infrastructure throughout the St. Cloud (central) and Rochester (southeast) districts of the State Patrol, as indicated in the following maps.



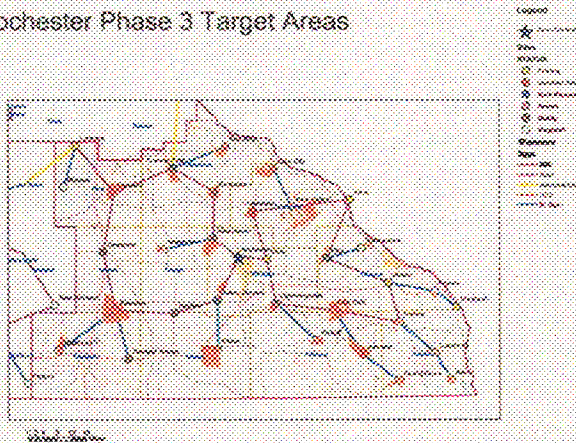
## Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER)

*continued*

St. Cloud Phase 3



Rochester Phase 3 Target Areas



The 2003, HSEM funds allocated \$5 million for local enhancements to the basic communication and interoperability infrastructure. St. Cloud received \$2.9 million, and Rochester and Olmsted County received \$2.1 million.

Based on unforeseen deficits in the 911 emergency telephone service program, the 911 revenue bonds were not viable. The portion of the 911 fees committed to these bonds was needed to pay current 911 operating

expenses. Without funding, Phase 3 development has not proceeded beyond the planning stage. Although, in 2004, HSEM funds allocated \$2.8 million to Stearns County and \$2.8 million to Olmsted County, which provide continued development of county wide trunked systems. HSEM also committed \$75,000 to the southwest and central regions, which provided resources for local planning.

### ARMER Governance Structure

With the completion of the Phase 1 backbone in the metropolitan area, there was a need to shift from a regional to a statewide emphasis. The 2004 Minnesota Legislature created the Statewide Radio Board (SRB) out of the Statewide Public Safety Radio and Communication Planning Committee. The SRB is composed of twenty-one members, including the following:

- ♦ Commissioner of Public Safety – Chair
- ♦ Commissioner of Transportation
- ♦ Commissioner of Natural Resources
- ♦ Commissioner of Administration
- ♦ Commissioner of Health
- ♦ Commissioner of Finance
- ♦ Chief of the Minnesota State Patrol
- ♦ Chair of the Metropolitan Radio Board
- ♦ A regional radio board representative
- ♦ Local officials as follows (one from metro and one from Greater Minnesota):
  - ♦ Two elected city officials
  - ♦ Two elected county officials
  - ♦ Two sheriffs
  - ♦ Two chiefs of police
  - ♦ Two fire chiefs
  - ♦ Two emergency medical service providers

Current membership on the SRB can be found at [www.armer.state.mn.us](http://www.armer.state.mn.us).



## Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER)

*continued*

The SRB's function is to administer and oversee the Statewide Radio Plan and the technical and operating standards for the system. The 2004 Minnesota Legislature also provided for the creation of regional radio boards to determine and administer regional enhancements, and facilitate local and regional integration onto the statewide interoperable radio system.

### **Current Status**

Currently, approximately 38 percent of public safety officials (based upon population covered) in the metropolitan area are operating on the regional interoperable radio system. That figure will increase to 87 percent by the end of 2005 when Hennepin County (agencies not served by Hennepin County Sheriff's Radio Dispatch) and Ramsey County have completed their transition to

the regional interoperable radio system. The transition of Hennepin and Ramsey counties to the regional system will bring the local commitment for infrastructure to \$59.2 million. The percentage of public safety officials operating on the system will increase with the addition of Dakota County in 2006.

Without additional funding, Phase 3 development in the St. Cloud (central) and Rochester (southeast) districts of the State Patrol is stalled. During 2005, St. Cloud and Stearns County, and Rochester and Olmsted County will begin operating local and county wide systems. The plan provides for their interoperability within the metro regional system, but lacking infrastructure, their communication equipment will not operate outside their primary service areas.

*For more information, contact Ron Whitehead, ARMER Project Manager, Department of Public Safety at 651-296-5778. 9/04*



**Region 45  
800 MHz  
Planning Committee**

Karen A. Carlson  
Committee Chairperson

Andrew Terry  
Vice-chair, Region 22 800 MHz Planning Committee  
Office of Electronic Communications  
161 St. Anthony  
St. Paul, MN 55103

RE: MN NPSPAC Ammendments for Armor Phase II & III

Dear Mr. Terry,

Please accept this letter as Region 45's acceptance of your request for plan amendments to the Region 22 NPSPAC Plan for Armor Phases II and III.

If you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 920-639-6714.

Thank you and good luck with your plan.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Carlson  
Region 45 Chairperson

**State of South Dakota****State Radio**  
Bureau of Information &  
Telecommunications

4/27/2005

Region 22 NPSPAC Committee  
Andrew W. Terry, Chairman  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
395 John Ireland Blvd., MS 730  
Saint Paul, Mn 55155

Dear Mr. Terry,

Region 38, South Dakota, approves of your NPSPAC plan amendment as outlined in your letter dated April 12th, 2005. As I understand it, this change will affect the Metro area and outlying areas to Wisconsin.

We wish you the best in your plans for this system. If you have any further questions, please contact me at 605-773-4635.

Sincerely,

Todd R. Dravland  
Region 38 Chairman  
BIT/State Radio Communications  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501



## Information Technology Department

600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept 112 • Bismarck, ND 58505-0100 • (701) 328-3190

April 25, 2005

Andrew W. Terry  
Region 22 Chairman  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
395 John Ireland Blvd, MS 730  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Subject: Concurrence request for Minnesota NPSPAC plan amendment

Dear Mr. Terry:

I am in receipt of your letter dated April 12, 2005 requesting concurrence from the Region 32 Chairman in amending the Minnesota Region 22 NPSPAC plan. I have reviewed the map of the proposed Region 22 statewide trunking system and related amendment information. As stated in your request and based on my review the amendment will have little to no effect on Region 32 since the changes are beyond 75 miles from the North Dakota Border. Therefore, Region 32 grants concurrence to Region 22 for the respective NPSPAC plan amendment.

Should you have any questions or need any further information, please contact me accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Hessinger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Rick Hessinger  
Region 32 Chairman  
Information Technology Department  
State of North Dakota  
701-328-4616

Region 22 NPSPAC Committee  
Andrew W. Terry, Chairman  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
395 John Ireland Blvd, MS 730  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

April 28, 2005

Dear Mr. Terry,

I have received your letter of April 12, 2005. I have also received the map of Minnesota showing the proposed amendment to your 800 MHz State Plan.

After careful review of this amendment, I as Region 15 Chairman of the NPSPAC 800 MHz Committee, find that it will have little or no effect on Region 15. Therefore, we are in full agreement with this amendment and give our concurrence with it.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Hester  
Region 15 NPSPAC Chairman  
Iowa State Patrol Communications  
56911 Whitepole Road  
Lewis, Iowa 51544